

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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FOL REPEAT OF LISBON 228 TO SECSTATE INFO LONDON PONTA DELGADA
JAN 13

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0228

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS COMUSFORAZ AND USMISSION NATO

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: DEMARCHE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

REFS: (A) STATE 6141 (DTG 100046Z JAN 76), (B) LISBON
197 (DTG 121534Z JAN 76), (C) PONTA DELGADA 18 (DTG 121145Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED
RESUMPTION CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS THROUGH AZORES. CLAIMED
"LEGAL" CONSIDERATIONS HINDERED PAST ACTION, BUT THAT GOP
WOULD MAKE "POLITICAL DEMARCHE" TO CUBANS BECAUSE OF USG
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CONCERN. RE MPLA RECOGNITION, ACTING FONMIN STATED CATE-

GORICALLY THAT GOP WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA UNLESS AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS DEVELOPED IN THAT DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE FONMIN MELO ANTUNES IN BUDAPEST, ACTING FONMIN MEDEIROS FERREIRA RECEIVED ME EVENING JAN 12 AT MY REQUEST TO DISCUSS (A) RESUMPTION OF CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES AND (B)

GOP POSITION ON MPLA RECOGNITION.

2. CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES: AFTER REVIEWING RECORD OF OUR PREVIOUS APPROACHES TO GOP ON CUBAN FLIGHTS (LISBON 10; 122; 142; 176) OF WHICH FERREIRA WAS AWARE, I TOLD HIM WE WERE BOTH SURPRISED AND CONCERNED AT THE RESUMPTION OF CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS VIA AZORES. I AGAIN WENT OVER THE MILITARY NATURE OF THE FLIGHTS; THEIR NON-COMMERCIAL ASPECT; CUBA'S ARMED INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

3. FERREIRA DID NOT DENY RESUMPTION OF CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS, NOR DID HE PLEAD IGNORANCE. HE CLAIMED THAT THESE FLIGHTS REPRESENTED A "REAL LEGAL PROBLEM" FOR GOP; THAT THE GOP/GOC BILATERAL AIR ACCORD PERMITTED SUCH LANDINGS, ETC. I TOLD HIM IT WAS VERY HARD FOR US TO ACCEPT THAT THE "LEGAL" ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WAS THE DETERMINING FACTOR. IN ANY CASE, BASED ON THE PREVIOUS ASSURANCES WE HAD BEEN GIVEN, WE WERE VERY CONCERNED AND HOPED THAT THE GOP WOULD TAKE DEFINITIVE STEPS TO END CUBAN TRANSIT OF THE AZORES.

4. IN VIEW OF OUR CONCERN, FERREIRA SAID THAT THE GOP WOULD MAKE A "POLITICAL DEMARCHE" TO THE CUBANS REGARDING THEIR AZORES TRANSIT. I SAID WE SERIOUSLY HOPED THAT THIS DEMARCHE WOULD RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

5. MPLA RECOGNITION: I NEXT RAISED MPLA RECOGNITION, DRAWING ON REFTEL (A), OTHERBACKGROUND TELS, AND POINTS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE WITH OTHER GOP LEADERS. FERREIRA SAID HE COULD "ASSURE US CATEGORICALLY" THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AS THE SOLE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA PENDING AN OAU RESOLUTION OF THEISSUE, IF THERE WAS ONE. THE GOP FAVORED THE POSITION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR. SPEAKING AS A SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER AND NOT AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, CONFIDENTIAL

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FERREIRA THEN SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, SOARES AND THE SOCIALISTS WERE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO MPLA RECOGNITION, BUT THERE WAS A PRO-MPLA LOBBY INSIDE THE GOP. FRREIRA SAID TTAT GOP POLICY WOULD BE TO FOLLOW AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS AND WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE SIZE OF THE CONSENSUS. FERREIRA SAID THE GOP DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD BRING. I WELCOMED HIS ASSURANCES OF GOP NONRECOGNITION OF MPLA, AND FERREIRA REITERATED THAT POSITION OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE

DECISIVE FOR GOP.

6. COMMENT: RE CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS THERE MAY BE SOME PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT THE PROBLEM IS CLEARLY NOT A LEGAL ONE. THE POLITICAL DECISION -- WHICH WE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE WAS MADE -- APPARENTLY STILL HAS TO BE CARRIED OUT. WE HAVE ALREADY PASSED WORD ABOUT RESUMPTION OF AZORES TRANSIT TO SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO AND CAN BE ALMOST CERTAIN THEY WILL SHARE OUR CONCERN. WE ARE ALSO PASSING THE WORD TO PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO AND I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH HIM DIRECTLY IF NECESSARY. OKUN UNQTEKISSINGER

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